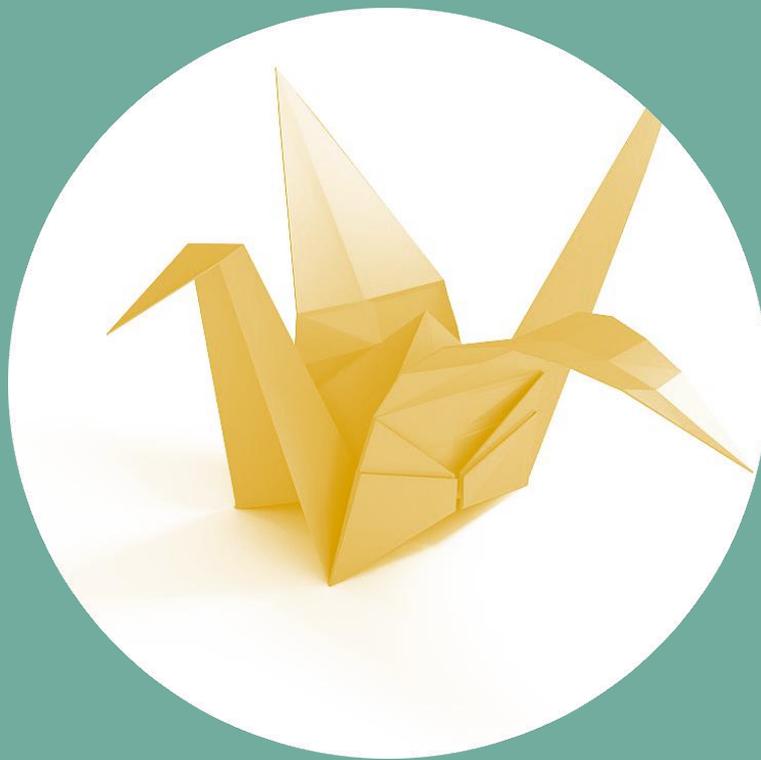




IPB

International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter



April 2019

Dear friends and colleagues,

The past few weeks were eventful ones for the peace movement. April started with a series of counteractions in Washington DC (USA), where organisations and movements from different parts of the world came together. While foreign ministers from the NATO states held their summit, marking the alliance's 70th anniversary, protests, rallies and other events took over the DC with one message: **no to NATO**, yes to peace! A few days later, the 2019 Global Days of Action on Military Spending - **GDAMS** started, with actions all around the globe calling for sustainable development and social investments to be prioritised over military expenditures. On the 25th April, we had the pleasure to hold a ceremony in Toronto, where we awarded the Seán McBride Peace Prize to **Hon. Douglas Roche O.C.**, Canada's former Ambassador for Disarmament, for his tireless efforts to promote international peace and disarmament.



Now, as we reach the end of the month, we also turn our attention and our efforts to New York City, where a session of the Preparatory Committee for next year's review on the parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the **NPT PrepCom**, is currently taking place. This newsletter contains a brief overview of these and other activities – from late March to the end of April 2019 – in which the IPB network has been engaged. We hope you enjoy it, and that the realisation of all that has been done brings an even greater mobilisation for peace in the upcoming months!

Editorial: Theresa Kresse (Coordinator) & Natalia Carrusca (Program Intern)



DOUGLAS ROCHE RECEIVES THE SEAN MCBRIDE PRIZE

On 25 April, Hon. Douglas Roche O.C. was honoured in a ceremony in Toronto, Canada, where he accepted the IPB's Seán MacBride Peace Prize.



The event, organised in cooperation with the Canadian Pugwash Group, had the Canadian writer and journalist Linda McQuaig as honourable speaker. IPB's President Reiner Braun and Board Member Steven Staples also took part in the solemnity.

Roche's tireless efforts to promote international peace and disarmament, in particular as President of the UN Association and as Ambassador for Disarmament during the height of the Cold War, helped maintain strong Canadian public support for the ideals of multilateralism in one of the most turbulent times in modern history.

[Click here](#) to read more about the outstanding and inspiring trajectory of Douglas Roche.



STATEMENT ON THE SIPRI REPORT ON MILITARY SPENDING

"On April 29th, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its [report on global military spending in 2018](#). According to the report, the global military budget rose in 2018 by 2.6%, and is now estimated at \$1.822.000.000.000 (\$1,822 trillion.)

This is a tremendous setback for IPB and its partners. More importantly, it is a direct assault against people who are in urgent need of humanitarian aid and development assistance. IPB, which focuses its resources on lobbying and campaigning for reduction of military spending in order to benefit social development, is greatly alarmed by this 2.6 per cent increase in military spending. To put this in perspective, it should be remembered that humanitarian aid and development assistance amounted to \$ 26.4 billion in 2017, according to the Development Initiatives' Report on the Global Humanitarian Assistance. Each dollar invested in war is causing multiplying physical and emotional damage, far [more than \\$ 26.4 billion](#) in humanitarian assistance can ever repair or compensate.

We, as active members of global civil society, need to combine our voices and efforts with others to name, protest and change this injustice and win reductions of the world's military budget through legal means and with high moral standards. Only in this way can we free up the financial and human resources essential to not only treating the symptoms of the global epidemic called "poverty," but to address issues such as hunger, homelessness, migration, racial and gender inequality and environmental deterioration.

Lisa Clark & Reiner Braun, Co-Presidents of IPB
Florence and Berlin, 29th of April 2019"

CALL FOR YOUR
ACTION FOR A
NUCLEAR-
WEAPON-FREE,
PEACEFUL AND
JUST WORLD!

On 15 April 2019, IPB's Co-Presidents issued a statement calling on individuals and organizations in every continent to take action and support efforts for the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

“Dear IPB family,

We live with the increasing danger of nuclear weapons that continue to threaten the survival of humanity.

The existence of nearly 15,000 of such weapons, many ready to be launched on warning, pose an imminent threat to us all. With the collapse of the INF Treaty, the resulting breakdown of the world's arms control systems, and the new era of super power confrontation, we are threatened by unrestrained nuclear arms races.

We have been aware for a long time that any nuclear weapon detonation will have long-term catastrophic humanitarian consequences on a global scale, impacting on health, the environment, socio-economic development and world economies. Whether used intentionally, or as a result of miscalculation or accident, the risks posed by a nuclear weapons explosion are unacceptably high. We all live under the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Compounding the dangers, the intensifying confrontations and arms races of the nuclear weapon states have increased the likelihood of nuclear weapons actually being used. The trillions of dollars, rubles, yuan, rupees and other currencies being spent to upgrade, modernize and maintain the world's nuclear arsenals and their delivery systems and on the military generally, while the basic needs of billions of people in the world are not met is systematically destroying people's lives and communities.

The abolition of nuclear weapons is no longer a dream – it has become an urgent necessity.

Faced with this situation, civil society, together with the overwhelming majority of the world's governments, rose up and achieved the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the U.N. on July 7, 2017. This marked a historic step to ban nuclear weapons once and for all. Since September 2017, when it was first opened for signature, the process of adoption of the treaty has gone well, 70 countries have so far signed and 22 have already ratified the Treaty. It is widely expected that the 50 ratifications needed for the treaty to enter into force will be achieved by 2020. However, nuclear armed states and nuclear umbrella states are resisting the Treaty and ignoring their legal obligations as signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT – and other international agreements) to negotiate “in good faith” the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Since the early years of the Cold War, IPB has insisted on the illegality of nuclear weapons and persistently worked for achieving a world without them and free from war. Now IPB urges people and organizations across the world to take action to prevent a nuclear war and to finally ensure the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. You can help with this urgent task

- Urge your government to take meaningful actions to reverse the renewed arms races and sign and ratify the TPNW for its early entry into force. Actions by local governments, political parties, businesses and a wide range of community organizations and individuals can make a powerful impact.
- Raise public awareness about the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the reality that human beings and nuclear weapons cannot coexist much longer, using the testimonies of those suffering from the Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombings and nuclear tests. A-bomb photo display panels, DVDs and other popular education resources are available from many IPB member organizations.
- Support local and national campaigns that work for nuclear disarmament, reductions in military spending, alternative ideas for security and related issues.
- Collect signatures for the international Hibakusha Appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons that was initiated by the Hibakusha (A-bomb sufferers) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2016. The Appeal embodies the Hibakusha's earnest desire to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons in their lifetime.
- Take actions in your communities, schools, workplaces, etc, worldwide, to build public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons, including taking the TPNW forward to 2020, the 75th year of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bombings. Help make the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in 2019 (April 29 – May 10), the UN General Assembly and the NPT Review Conference in 2020 important international rallying points of actions.

Lisa Clark & Reiner Braun, Co-Presidents of IPB
Florence and Berlin, 15th of April 2019”

PAX CHRISTI'S EUROPEAN MANIFESTO: "THE EUROPE WE WANT"

In view of the upcoming elections for the European Parliament and amidst increasingly loud nationalistic and populist voices, Pax Christi International has launched a manifesto in support of the European Union as a peace project.

The document – jointly elaborated by Pax Christi with its members from the Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders), Germany, France, Italy, Austria, the UK and Portugal – highlights some of the achievements of the EU and the several challenges it still needs to address. Below is an excerpt of the manifesto:

“Europe’ is a unique peace project which has held for more than 70 years. When it started after World War II, the “European project” was built on two parallel constructed pillars: one was the joint control over war resources, namely through the European Coal and Steel Community (1951); the other was the promotion and protection of human rights as a significant means to prevent war among European nations through the creation of the Council of Europe (1949). Following this, the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the European Court of Human Rights (1959) were established (...)”



You can access the full text of the manifesto in English, French, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, and Polish [on Pax Christi's website](#).

Demilitarize! Invest in people's needs

APRIL 13TH TO MAY 9TH 2019
GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION
ON MILITARY SPENDING



Global Days of Action on Military Spending

The 13th of April marked the first day of the 2019 Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), promoted by the IPB and several partner organisations and movements from around the globe. In its 6th year, the GDAMS are part of the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), which advocates for reductions in military expenditures and for investments in the sectors of health, education, employment, and climate change to be prioritised by governments. This year and so far (the GDAMS will last until 9 May), actions have taken or are scheduled to take place in Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Uruguay, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.

This year's campaign has also received numerous contributions through the GDAMS Selfie Campaign: individuals from different countries have used our templates to tell the world how they would invest the money that is currently used for military purposes.



The 2019 GDAMS were also endorsed by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, with a statement issued by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In the document, Nakamitsu called on the international community "to realign priorities from big militaries to people-centred growth." You can read the full statement [here](#).



Don't forget to check the [new infographics](#) prepared by the GCOMS team for GDAMS!

Some of the activities referred to in this newsletter bring tags that indicate that they happened within the GDAMS, or in the context of GCOMS. You can find a lot more on [Demilitarize.org!](#)





PRESS CONFERENCES ON SIPRI'S NEW REPORT

On 29 April and in the context of GDAMS, press conferences regarding the [most recent figures of global military expenditure](#), released on the same day by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), were conducted in Berlin, Barcelona, Sidney and Seoul.



Photo: Reto Thumiger, *Presenza*

In Berlin, Lucas Wirl (IPB & IALANA), Michael Müller (NaturFreunde Deutschlands) and Alexander Neu (Member of the German Parliament - Die Linke) presented and commented on the new SIPRI data, which has alarmingly revealed a rise in global military expenditure to \$1.8 trillion in 2018.



Jordi Calvo (Vice-President of the IPB, Coordinator of GCOMS & Centre Delàs), Luca Gervasoni i Vila (Lafede.cat), Claudia Bosch (Rebel·lió o Extinció), and Pepe Beunza (Spain's first nonviolent military

objector) discussed the SIPRI data in a press conference in Barcelona, organised by Centre Delàs and our GCOMS team.



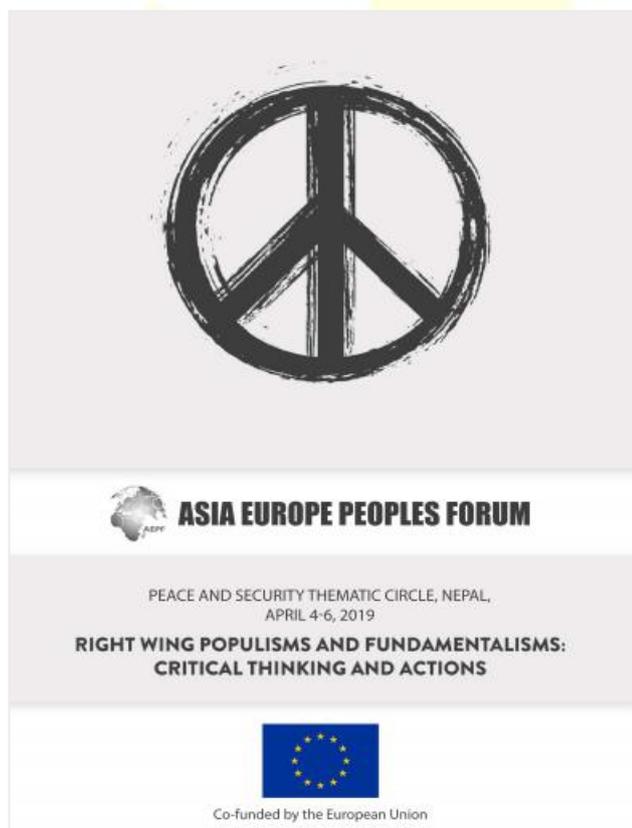
The [Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition](#) also conducted a press conference in Sydney. The new SIPRI figures were presented and analysed by the Coalition's spokesperson, Hannah Middleton, who called for a change in Australia's military doctrine and for an increase in social investments.



In Seoul, the SIPRI data was presented to the Korean press in a conference organised by the People's Solidarity Participatory Democracy (PSPD). Following the event, the organisation also promoted a nonviolent act in the streets, inviting by-passers to add their voices to the GDAMS mobilisation for less military expenditure and more social investments.

ASIA EUROPE
PEOPLE'S FORUM'S
PEACE & SECURITY
THEMATIC CIRCLE

Jordi Calvo (Vice-President of IPB, Director of the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau and Coordinator of our Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), recently participated in the Asia Europe People's Forum's Peace & Security Thematic Circle, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Discussing "fundamentalisms and institutions", he addressed issues of militarism & military spending.



The article "What security, whose security?", extracted from Jordi's presentations at the event, has been made available online. [Click here](#) to access it.

COUNTERACTIONS TO
NATO'S ANNIVERSARY
& SUMMIT

The foreign ministers from the North Atlantic Alliance's members met in Washington DC (USA) on the 3-4 April 2019, marking NATO's 70th anniversary.



As counteractions, the IPB was involved in a series of parallel events in the DC, organised by the network "No to War - No to NATO" and partners: a march and rally on 30 March, the „Peace and Disarmament Counter Summit“ on 2 April, and the "No to NATO, Yes to Peace Festival" on 3-4 April. The final day of events, April 4, also marked 51 years since Martin Luther King, Jr., a leader in the struggle against racism, poverty and war, was assassinated. Find more photos and videos [here](#).





GCOMS ABOARD OF THE PEACE BOAT

A series of events were held on board the [Peace & Green Boat](#), which travels through East Asia and brings together 500 Japanese and 500 Korean participants on a journey of mutual understanding, reconciliation, and regional collaboration for peace and sustainability.

On April 14, as the ship was docked in the city of Nagasaki, Peace Boat's Kawasaki Akira – who is also a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – conducted a lecture on nuclear disarmament, the GCOMS and the 2019 GDAMS.



Following the lecture, hundreds of participants from both Korea and Japan gathered on the ship's deck to display their commitment and support to GDAMS mission: reducing military spending and redirecting investments for people's needs. You can read more about these activities [here](#).

The Peace and Green Boat is an initiative of the Tokyo-based NGO Peace Boat. Founded in 1983, the organisation holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

NDH CAMEROUN'S MOBILISATION AGAINST MILITARY SPENDING



Our member organisation [Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme](#) (NDH), together with its partner All Women Together (AWT), have promoted several actions in Yaoundé in the context of the 2019 GDAMS. On 15 April 2019, NDH and AWT issued a statement calling for reductions on military spending in Cameroun and a rechanneling of funds that takes into account the social needs of Cameroonians, specifically women and girls. The statement published in [English](#) and [French](#).



On 17 April, NDH called on the population of Cameroon to sign a petition against military spending, supported by human rights activists and local NGO representatives. In addition, the organisation has made several contributions to the GDAMS Selfie Campaign, some of which you can find [here](#) and [here](#). Read more about the issue of military sending in Cameroun on [NDH's website](#) (in French).

NPT PREPCOM SIDE-EVENTS

Together with partner organisations, the IPB is involved as organiser or supporter in a series of side-events to the 3rd session of the [Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\)](#), taking place in New York City from 29 April to 10 May 2019.

The first two side-events have taken place on 30 April, in the premises of the United Nations: “Nuclear weapons in Europe”, co-organised by the IPB and the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, and “Tearing up the INF and attacks on the rules-based system”, organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), in which IPB’s President Reiner Braun took part as a speaker. Two other events will take place in the first week of May:

Side-event “Modernisations and New Nuclear Technologies”

06 May, 10h-12h
UN Headquarters
Conference Room C



International Conference “Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World: New Thinking & Movement Building”

May 4, 8h30 - 17h30
Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square
[Click here to register for this event.](#)



MOBILISATION AGAINST MILITARY SPENDING IN URUGUAY



In the context of the GDAMS, our member [Movimiento de Educadores por la Paz](#) (Movement of Educators for Peace) is promoting a campaign for global peace in Uruguay, together with the National Convention of Workers and the Uruguayan Federation of Teachers & Workers of Primary Education. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the issue of military expenditure, calling instead for a culture of peace and human rights. The Movement has recently published an article in the magazine *Quehacer Educativo*, dedicated to educators of the primary and initial levels, addressing the GCOMS’s message and mission. In addition, our Uruguayan member has been involved in promoting the short film “Alto El Juego”, from the film-maker Walter Tournier, which speaks against weapons and violence.

CAMPAÑA MUNDIAL CONTRA EL GASTO MILITAR 13 DE ABRIL – 9 DE MAYO DE 2019

En el planeta se destinan más de 1.820.000.000.000 de dólares para la carrera armamentista

Mientras millones de niños, niñas, mujeres y hombres mueren de hambre y enfermedades curables.

Hoy las guerras condenan a más de 65.500.000 personas a verse desplazadas de sus hogares.

Los países más poderosos promueven conflictos y guerras para fabricar y vender armas.

Hoy el único sector de la producción capitalista que tiene asegurada una demanda efectiva y real es el complejo militar – industrial armamentista.

Reafirmamos nuestro compromiso por el desarme nuclear, la libre autodeterminación de los pueblos y la paz mundial.



Movimiento
de Educadores
por la Paz



IEPF AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S 40TH SESSION

Last month [March 2019], representatives of the International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) participated in the 40th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, in Geneva. Here is an overview of their advocacy efforts on the occasion:

President of the IEPF Umud Mirzayev, Vice-President Ramil Azizov, and assistant to the IEPF President, political analyst Anastasia Lavrina joined the official meetings and parallel side events organized by different NGOs at the UN Office in Geneva. During a week of intense advocacy activities, the IEPF called on the international community to unite efforts and work together to build peace.

During 5 days, a number of meetings were held with official delegates and representatives from different countries. The meetings were held with Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for the Advancement of Human Rights and Global Dialogue Idriss Jazairy, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Catalina Devandas Aguilar, UN Human Rights officer Zeki Otman, Adviser to the Department of Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the Russian Foreign Ministry Yevgeni Ustinov, member of the Board of ARAMEA Foundation in London Bassam Aloni and others.

On March 7, in partnership with Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH), International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) held the side-event "Water for Peace and Security" at the UN Geneva Headquarters. The speakers at the

event (Member of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Prof. Osman El Hajje, Head of the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health Dr. Nidal Salim, IEPF representatives) tried to bring more attention to the water scarcity problem in the war-affected regions of Azerbaijan appeared as a result of a long-lasting Azerbaijan-Armenia Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and blockage of Sarsang water reservoir that is located on the occupied territory of Azerbaijan.

The side-event aimed to showcase strategies and examples of activities and good practices in different parts of the world aimed to reduce water scarcity. The issue of water resources was addressed not only as a contributing factor for triggering wars, but also as a tool for starting negotiations and building trust and peace. Representatives of civil society organizations, UN entities, various NGOs, and independent researchers engaged in a rich conversation on the possibilities of transforming sources of potential water crises into tools for peace.

The International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) is an independent non-governmental organization officially which enjoys a General Consultative status of the UN ECOSOC since the end of 2013. In 2000 the IEPF became a member of International Peace Bureau (IPB). The Fund regularly collaborates with the UN entities, the US State Department, the European Commission, the International Press Institute, the International Peace Bureau, different foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations situated in Azerbaijan, governmental and non-governmental structures. The IEPF actively supports the idea of peace promotion and contributes in implementation of the UN SDGs. Presently, IEPF works in five key directions: Media & Civil Society Development; Peace-making & Conflict Resolution; Community Development; Refugees/IDPs Issues; and Education.